SPI STORIES 2025 – BUBBLES. CONNECTED. DISCONNECTED. UNPLUGGED

You can participate in the competition by creating a video with a maximum length of ten minutes, released in 2024.

The Spi Stories Short Film Festival reaches its thirteenth edition. The competition, created by the publisher LiberEtà and the CGIL Pensioners' Union, has chosen the title "Bolle. Connessi. Sconnessi. Disconnessi." ("Bubbles. Connected. Disconnected. Unplugged") for this edition.
This year, the competition focuses on the future that awaits us and how our daily choices can influence tomorrow. Climate change, social inequalities, global connectivity, and individual alienation are the central themes of this edition, which invites filmmakers to imagine future scenarios and tell stories that address the challenges of the present. The chosen title, “Bolle. Connessi. Sconnessi. Disconnessi” (Bubbles. Connected. Disconnected. Unplugged), is an invitation to explore the contradictions of an increasingly interconnected world yet profoundly divided. The bubbles represent our social and economic isolation, while the concepts of connection and disconnection reflect the reality of a rapidly changing world in which each of us is involved, but also, at times, excluded. In the face of all this, our sociality will inevitably change. We ask filmmakers to immerse themselves in the future they wish to create, with the intent to share their vision of tomorrow’s possibilities and reflect on the contradictions of a world that appears ever more complex. “Connected, Disconnected, Unplugged” are the nuances of our existence in the present, as we prepare to face the challenges of an uncertain future.

Technology, with its pervasive power, unites us, separates us, and sometimes isolates us within bubbles of subjective reality. We live in “bubbles” that shape how we perceive the world. Social bubbles are the environments that mirror our opinions, filtering reality and separating us from others. Digital bubbles: those virtual spaces that sustain our connection to the network but sometimes alienate us from real life. "Connected" and "Disconnected" are words that represent our interaction with the digital world and the loneliness that can emerge despite constant connectivity. "Unplugged" explores the idea of disconnection, of liberation from the relentless flow of information or, conversely, alienation. What we are experiencing today is only a prelude to what awaits us: increasingly immersive virtual realities, artificial intelligence making decisions for us, relationships forming and dissolving through screens, and a world that seems ever harder to decipher. Participants are invited to reflect on these themes with the aim of stimulating new visions, questioning the future, and considering the impact of technology on our identity, relationships, and society. The submission deadline is 15th February 2025.

Who can apply to Spi Stories 2025?
The competition is open to all videomakers, filmmakers, creatives, and audiovisual professionals, regardless of age or geographical origin. Participation is open to anyone wishing to express an original and critical vision of the proposed theme, with particular attention to the ongoing challenges and changes.

Participation requirements for Spi Stories 2025

Short film length
Each short film must have a maximum duration of 10 minutes, including credits. Works exceeding this limit will not be considered.

Production date
Short films must have been released in 2024 onwards.

Original content
Short films must be original works. If the work is inspired by an existing multimedia product (film, video, video game, artwork, etc.), the author must explicitly cite the referenced work or the inspiration that led to the creation of the short film.

Format and quality
Short films must be submitted in digital format (preferably .mp4 or .mov), with visual and sound quality suitable for public screening. The files should be easily readable and compatible with most devices.

Language and subtitles
If the language of the short film is not Italian, subtitles in Italian or English are mandatory.

Creation of meaningful content
Although there are no specific limits on genre, style, or approach, the short films must address the proposed theme in a coherent and meaningful way, using the audiovisual form to explore the social, cultural, and technological implications of the theme.

Deadline for submitting short films to Spi Stories
Works must be submitted no later than 15th February 2025. Applications received after this date will not be considered. You may submit your work at any time before the deadline.

Selection and Awards
A selection committee composed of film industry experts, critics, and technology professionals will evaluate the short films based on the following criteria:

Awards will be presented during the awards ceremony at the end of the festival.

Terms and Conditions Spi Stories 2025
Acceptance of the competition rules: Participation in the competition implies full acceptance of these rules and the final decisions of the jury.
Use of the works: The festival organisation reserves the right to use excerpts from the selected short films for promotional, advertising, and festival dissemination purposes, with the authors' consent.
Copyright: Authors retain the copyright of the works presented but grant the festival the right to screen and use the works for promotional purposes without profit.
Responsibility: Authors are responsible for the content of the works submitted and guarantee that they do not infringe upon intellectual property rights or third-party rights.